

Virtual Seminar Towards the Implementation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters in the Americas

Facilitated by UN-ECLAC and UN-GGIM: Americas

Tuesday 04 August 2020
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM (CST, UTC-4)

CONCEPT NOTE

In the context of the geospatial response to COVID-19, throughout regional meetings and consultations carried out in the Americas, it was possible to verify that the countries, to a greater or lesser extent, have knowledge regarding appropriate geospatial tools and methodologies to respond to disasters. However, some gaps and challenges have also been identified regarding interoperability, data access policies, higher levels of disaggregation, capacity building, increased awareness at the level of authorities, and the availability of greater technology and financing, among others.

Considering the above, within the Americas region there are strengths which support future crises of this or another nature. However, there are also weaknesses and gaps that open ways and opportunities to strengthen our geospatial response. The crucial question then is, what should we do to capitalize our strengths, address gaps, and achieve a more comprehensive and sustainable geospatial response over time?

From UN-GGIM: Americas and ECLAC, we recognize a great opportunity in the new guidelines delivered by the working agenda of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, and the need to bring down and implement global frameworks in the countries of the region. These frameworks would make it possible to take advantage of, and strengthen, the responses that we have today, provide cross-cutting work elements to the countries' management in geospatial matters, and prepare roadmaps with concrete actions to cover the existing gaps.

One relevant global guideline is the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (Strategic Framework for Disasters), elaborated by the UN-GGIM Working Group on this topic, which aims to bring all stakeholders and partners involved in Disaster Risk Reduction and/or Emergency Management together to ensure that quality geospatial information and services are available and accessible in a timely and coordinated way to support decision-making and operations within and across all sectors and phases of disaster risk management. The Strategic Framework for Disasters comprises five Priorities for Action to support its implementation by countries.

By the other hand, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) provides a guide for developing, integrating, strengthening, and maximizing geospatial information management and related resources in all countries, either by establishing governance agreements, referencing policies to protect privacy and confidentiality of data, promoting partnerships between stakeholders from different sectors (public, private and academy), leveraging innovation to deliver better technological platforms, or creating communication tools to reach the wide spectrum of users that need these geospatial resources for different purposes, among others. The IGIF is anchored by nine Strategic Pathways to guide its implementation by countries.

The IGIF Implementation Guide provides the step-by-step guidance for countries to implement the IGIF through each of the nine interrelated Strategic Pathways. These have been developed to reflect all the component parts



of an integrated national geospatial information program, and organized in response to three principal areas of equally shared influence – Governance, Technology and People. Importantly, the IGIF is universally applicable to all countries and all situations. Therefore, it is able to support the five Priorities for Action within the Strategic Framework for Disasters. They are mutually compatible.

This webinar attempts to convene national representatives from diverse sectors that contribute in the geospatial response to disasters – national geospatial agencies, national statistics offices, risk and disaster management organizations, and many other representatives from the public, academic and private sectors related to the topic.

The main objectives of this regional encounter are to:

- Disseminate the Strategic Framework for Disasters, including its five Priorities for Action, to a wide spectrum of institutional actors linked to the management of geospatial and statistical information, together with organizations in charge of risk reduction and disaster management at the national level.
- Sharing national good practices related to the five Priorities for Action of the Strategic Framework for Disasters, referring to governance, capacity building, data management, use of technology platforms and resource mobilization.
- Provide an overview on how the IGIF supports the Strategic Framework for Disasters. In particular, it will be demonstrated how the five Priorities for Action of the Strategic Framework for Disasters are linked to, and enabled by, the nine Strategic Pathways of the IGIF.
- Provide a space for regional discussion on the way to move forward in the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Disasters and its five Priorities of Action at country level, with the support of the IGIF Implementation Guide – the detailed Guide for implementing the nine Strategic Pathways of the IGIF.
- Encourage member states to complete the online Assessment tool developed for the Strategic Framework for Disasters, towards determining their level of readiness and the identification of areas where support is needed.

Agenda

11:00 – 11:10

Welcome

Paloma Merodio, President UN-GGIM: Americas
Rolando Ocampo, Director Statistics Division ECLAC

11:10– 11:40

Global perspectives

Moderator: Cecille Blake, UN-GGIM Secretariat

The Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters



Simone Lloyd, Co-Chair support UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters and Senior GIS Manager – National Spatial Data Management Branch, Jamaica (15 minutes)

Linking the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters with the IGIF
Rob Deakin, Manager Resilience, Land Information New Zealand & UN-GGIM WG Disasters (15 minutes)

11:40 – 12:10

National experiences

Moderator: *Nouri Sabo, Co-Chair UN-GGIM: Americas Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disasters*

Dominican Republic
Alejandro Jiménez, Director of the National Geographic Institute José Joaquín Hungría Morell (10 minutes)

Ecuador
TCRN. Dehivi Salgado, Deputy Director of the Military Geographic Institute (10 minutes)

Argentina
Sergio Cimbaro, Director of the National Geographic Institute (10 minutes)

12:10 – 12:25

IGIF Implementation Guide: Enabling the implementation of the Strategic Framework on Disasters at the country level.

Greg Scott, UNSD, UN-GGIM Secretariat (15 minutes)

12:25 – 12:50

Final discussion

Moderators:

Simone Lloyd, Co-Chair support UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

Alvaro Monett, Regional Geospatial Advisor, ECLAC

12:50– 13:00

Closure

Paloma Merodio, President UN-GGIM: Americas
Rolando Ocampo, Director Statistics Division ECLAC

